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THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 12 August 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the statement issued in Havana on 10 August 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba regarding the use of the Guantánamo naval base as a concentration camp for Haitian citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 34, 97 and 102 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Bruno Rodríguez PARRILLA
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement issued in Havana on 10 August 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba on the situation in Haiti

The Government of the Republic of Cuba registers a strong protest at the illegal use as a concentration camp for Haitian citizens of the naval base maintained by force by the United States of America at Guantánamo Bay.

These facts not only violate the arbitrary, unjust and outdated agreements which were imposed during the United States military occupation at the beginning of the century and cannot be maintained against the sovereign will of our people, but are moreover unthinkable without prior consultation with and authorization from Cuba.

This arbitrary and violative use of this part of Cuba's territory for assembling and processing people who for various reasons wish to settle in the United States has on other occasions met with the strongest and most resolute protest from the Government of Cuba.

It has come to the knowledge of Cuba that the United States authorities are currently housing almost 16,000 Haitians at the Guantánamo naval base in subhuman and overcrowded conditions, thereby not only violating the human rights of these refugees, but also seriously affecting the living conditions, tranquillity and stability of the Cuban populations living near this United States military enclave.

The Government of Cuba is not unaware of the suffering of the Haitian people and, as the international community well knows, has strongly condemned the de facto military regime, calling for a peaceful, just and democratic solution to the crisis in Haiti through the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Nevertheless, it is inadmissible for the United States to assemble in the Guantánamo naval base, in a discriminatory manner, people it refuses to receive in its own territory.

The Government of Cuba calls on the United States authorities to put an end once and for all to this illegal transfer of Haitian immigrants to the Guantánamo naval base, an unjust and unlawful practice which is intolerable in that it undermines Cuba's national sovereignty, and at the same time reiterates the Cuban people's rejection of the United States military presence in its territory, which is on this occasion once again being used for repulsive and hypocritical political purposes.